

Message Text

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72-60

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SY-04 OMB-01 /096 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/OP61:CAPT LYTLE:SAL

APPROVED BY EUR/NE:WABUELL,JR.

DOD/ISA:PBARRINGER

PM/ISO:HHAGERTY

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R 152241Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

INFO CNO WASHDC

COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

COMNAVAVIRLANT NORFOLK

CINCLANTFLT

COMFAIRKEFLAVIK IC

CO NAVSTA KEFLAVIK IC

CO MARBKS KEFLAVIK IC

CMC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179522

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC

SUBJECT: MARINE CORPS BILLET REDUCTIONS IN ICELAND
DEFENSE FORCE

EF: COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK 311707Z JUL 74

1. REFTTEL INDICATED THAT NINE BILLETS FOR MARINE GUARDS
NO LONGER NEEDED AS RESULT OF REPLACEMENT BY ICELANDERS
SHOULD BE RETAINED, PENDING COMPLETION OF ICELAND DEFENSE
FORCE NEGOTIATIONS, IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE POSSIBLE UN-
DESIRABLE PUBLICITY. SINCE REPLACEMENT OF MARINE GUARD
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AT MAIN GATE WAS FORMALLY AGREED TO LAST OCTOBER, HOWEVER,

ADVERSE PUBLICITY NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY.

2. AS A RELATED MATTER, NAVY DESIRES TO CLOSE CORRECTIONAL CENTER AT USNAVSTA KEFLAVIK, SINCE LACK OF USE MAKES CONTINUED OPERATION UNSUPPORTABLE AND UNECONOMICAL. THIS ACTION WOULD REDUCE SEVEN MORE MARINE BILLETS.

3. IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE MARINE CORPS TO MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF ITS ASSETS, NAVY DESIRES EFFECT THESE REDUCTIONS AS SOON AS FEASIBLE. NOTIFICATION TO GOI REGARDING THESE SIXTEEN REDUCTIONS COULD BE MADE DURING ONE OF YOUR CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR ANDERSEN. THE CHANGE COULD BE EXPLAINED AS AN EXAMPLE OF OUR CONTINUED EVALUATION OF IDF REQUIREMENTS WITH A VIEW TOWARD REDUCING US

PRESENCE BUT WITHOUT UNDUE DEGRADATION TO DEFENSE AND MISSION CAPABILITY.

4. REQUEST YOUR VIEWS CONCERNING THE TIMING FOR THESE CHANGES, THE METHOD OF NOTIFICATION TO GOI, AND POSSIBLE ADVERSE REACTION FROM PRO-IDF ELEMENTS ON GROUNDS THAT MARINE COMPLEMENT IS IMPORTANT PART OF ICELAND'S DEFENSE AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE CORPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE179522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CAPT LYTLE:SAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740225-0639
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740843/aaaabkyv.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARINE CORPS BILLET REDUCTIONS IN ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE
TAGS: APER, IC
To: REYKJAVIK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005